GINO'S

SIGH... IT'S NO USE.

WE CAN'T FIND AUBREY ANYWHERE.

WHERE IN THE WORLD DID SHE GO?

MOVE IT, NERDS!!!

HUH?!

WHAT IN THE-

WAIT A SEC...

DASH

WAS THAT...

...KIM? SHE'S PART OF AUBREY'S NEW CREW!

C'MON, SUNNY!!

GET BACK HERE, YOU DANG HOO-LIGANS!!

WHAT TROUBLE ARE THEY UP TO THIS TIME?

GIVE ME BACK THE TAFFY YOU STOLE!!!

Chapter 3: It Means Everything

HUH?!

BEAN-SPROUT AND THE SHUT-IN?!

WHAT ARE YOU NERDS DOING HERE?!

WE WANNA ASK YOU SOMETHING ABOUT AUBREY!

WAIT UP, KIM!!

HEY, STOP RUNNING AWAY!!

HA! AS IF I'D TELL YOU ANYTHING, NEEEERD!!

WE NEED TO CATCH UP TO HER SOMEHOW!

DANG IT!

TENSE

SUNNY ?!

THROW

!

ナンバ

SHOCK

CLATTER

HAHA! WHAT A WIMP!!

ROLL

STEP

GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE... STUPID... NERDS...

NICE ONE! HIGH FIVE, SUNNY!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?! I'M INNOCENT, I TELL YA!

NOW THEN... IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FINALLY GOT SOME ANSWERS!!

HOLD IT!!

?!

...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR AUBREY. TELL US WHERE SHE IS.

YOU'RE ASKING ME ABOUT AUBREY? WHY NOW AFTER ALL THIS TIME? DON'T YOU REMEMBER...?

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO LEFT HER FIRST.

AH SHOOT... I FORGOT ABOUT YOU...

YOU CAUGHT ONE OF THESE DANG HOOLI-GANS FOR ME! SMILEY SMILEY!

THANK GOOD-NESS!!

NO... THAT'S-

!

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE. IT'S TIME I HAND THIS TROUBLE-MAKER OVER TO THE COPS!!!

BUT NOW YOU CAN FINALLY PAY YOUR DUES! SMILEY SMILEY!

I SEEM TO REMEMBER PLENTY OF VANDALISM AND OTHER DISTURBANCES ...

WELL, THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL... IS IT, KIM?

TH-THE COPS?! YOU CAN'T BE SERI-OUS.

IT'S JUST SOME STUPID CANDY!!

!

YOU KIDS THESE DAYS CAN'T SEEM TO LEARN ANYTHING RIGHT...

AT LAST, FARAWAY TOWN WILL GET SOME PEACE WITH-OUT YOUR ANTICS.

BUT MAYBE YOU'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO LEARN SOME-THING IN JUVY!!

MISS!!
YOU HURT MY HONEST BUSINESS!! I HAVE RENT TO PAY, YOU KNOW?!
LET ME GO! I DIDN'T HURT ANY-ONE!!
C'MON, WE'RE GOING! STOP BEING DIFFICULT! SMILEY SMILEY!

I KNOW KIM'S CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR YOU...

YES?

WHAT IS IT?

BUT...

WH-WHAT?! BUT I-

PLEASE! SHE'S... UH... A PRECIOUS FRIEND OF A FRIEND. KIM MIGHT BE A LITTLE MISGUIDED AT TIMES, BUT... I KNOW THERE'S STILL SOME GOOD IN HER.

PLEASE... COULD YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE HER JUST ONE MORE CHANCE?

?!

PLEASE, MISS! PLEASE... I'LL EVEN BEG-

...

OH, FINE~! I'LL LET HER SLIDE. BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW, THIS ONLY PAYS FOR HALF THE CANDY THEY STOLE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISS!

YOU'RE LUCKY I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR REGULARS LIKE YOU! SMILEY SMILEY!

KEL... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO-

AWW, KIM!!! WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL!

IF YOU'RE GONNA BE SHOP-LIFTING, MAYBE TRY NOT GETTING CAUGHT NEXT TIME!! *HEH HEH...*

B-

U-

T!

ATTEN-TION!

Zu..

WHADDYA SAY, KIM?

NOW THAT YOU OWE ME, MAYBE A LITTLE INFO EXCHANGE IS IN ORDER?

UNDERSTOOD... LOUD AND CLEAR!

GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE... FINE... WHATEVER!!

JUST DON'T TELL HER IT WAS ME WHO TOLD YOU.

RIGHT NOW, AUBREY IS PROBABLY AT...

...CHURCH?

REALLY? THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I WOULD EXPECT HER.

PUSH OPEN

GEEZ... IT SURE FEELS TENSE IN HERE...

PSST...

AUBREY!

...YOU GUYS AGAIN?

WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?

GIVE IT BACK TO HIM.

BASIL TOLD US ABOUT THE PHOTO ALBUM.

GIVE IT... BACK...?

I THINK YOU HAVE THINGS A LITTLE MIXED UP HERE.

...

I'M PROTECT-ING IT...

...FROM ALL OF YOU.

...SO WHAT?

S-SO WHAT?!

THAT PHOTO ALBUM BELONGS TO ALL OF US.

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING?

WE USED TO BE FRIENDS... BUT NOW? NAH... WE'RE NOT FRIENDS. NOT ANYMORE.

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?! WE ALL USED TO BE BEST FRIENDS!

YEAH, KEL... EXACTLY!

HEY... ARE YOU BE-ING SERIOUS RIGHT NOW? BECAUSE...

THUMP

YOU KNOW...

MARI WOULD BE REALLY SAD TO HEAR THAT.

SLAM

HEH... REALLY?

YOU REALLY WANNA BRING *MARI* INTO THIS?

THAT'S RICH COMING FROM YOU.

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT ACTED LIKE EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL AFTER SHE DIED!

JOLT

NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE...

YOU DIDN'T CARE.

WHEN MARI DIED, YOU MOVED ON SO FAST. WAS IT SIMPLE FOR YOU TO TOSS US ASIDE FOR YOUR NEW FRIENDS SO FAST?

YOU THINK IT'S ALL SO SIMPLE!

WE WERE ALL DEAL-ING WITH OUR OWN STUFF.

WE WERE JUST KIDS!

I BET LIFE'S MUCH MORE SIMPLE IF YOU JUST FORGET EVERYTHING, ISN'T IT?

JUST LIKE THAT LIT-TLE SHUT-IN CREEP OVER THERE.

HEY, WATCH IT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SUNNY'S BEEN THROUGH.

JUST FACE IT, KEL! IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS.

LAST I CHECKED, YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HIM, OR ME, OR ANY OF US!

WELL, I'M HERE NOW, AREN'T I?!

SLAM

SO MAYBE JUST TALK TO ME INSTEAD OF PICKING FIGHTS FOR NO REASON?!

I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR ANY-THING YOU WANT.

SO THIS IS ABOUT HOW I WASN'T THERE FOR YOU, RIGHT? WELL, I'M SORRY! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BET-TER, BUT I WAS ONLY-

STOMP

NO!!!

I WON'T ACCEPT THIS... NOT NOW... AND NOT FROM YOU!!!

GRAB

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE KIDS?

LOOK AT HER CLOTHING... IT IS COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHURCH...

SOMEONE NEEDS TO STOP THEM...

THEY'RE FIGHTING? IN A CHURCH OF ALL PLACES?

LOOK AT THAT NASTY PINK HAIR... IT'S AWFUL...

I HOPE MY KIDS DON'T TURN OUT LIKE HER...

WHERE ARE THEIR PARENTS?

WHAT DO THESE DELINQUENTS THINK THEY'RE DOING? THIS IS A PLACE OF WORSHIP!

HOW UN-CIVILIZED!

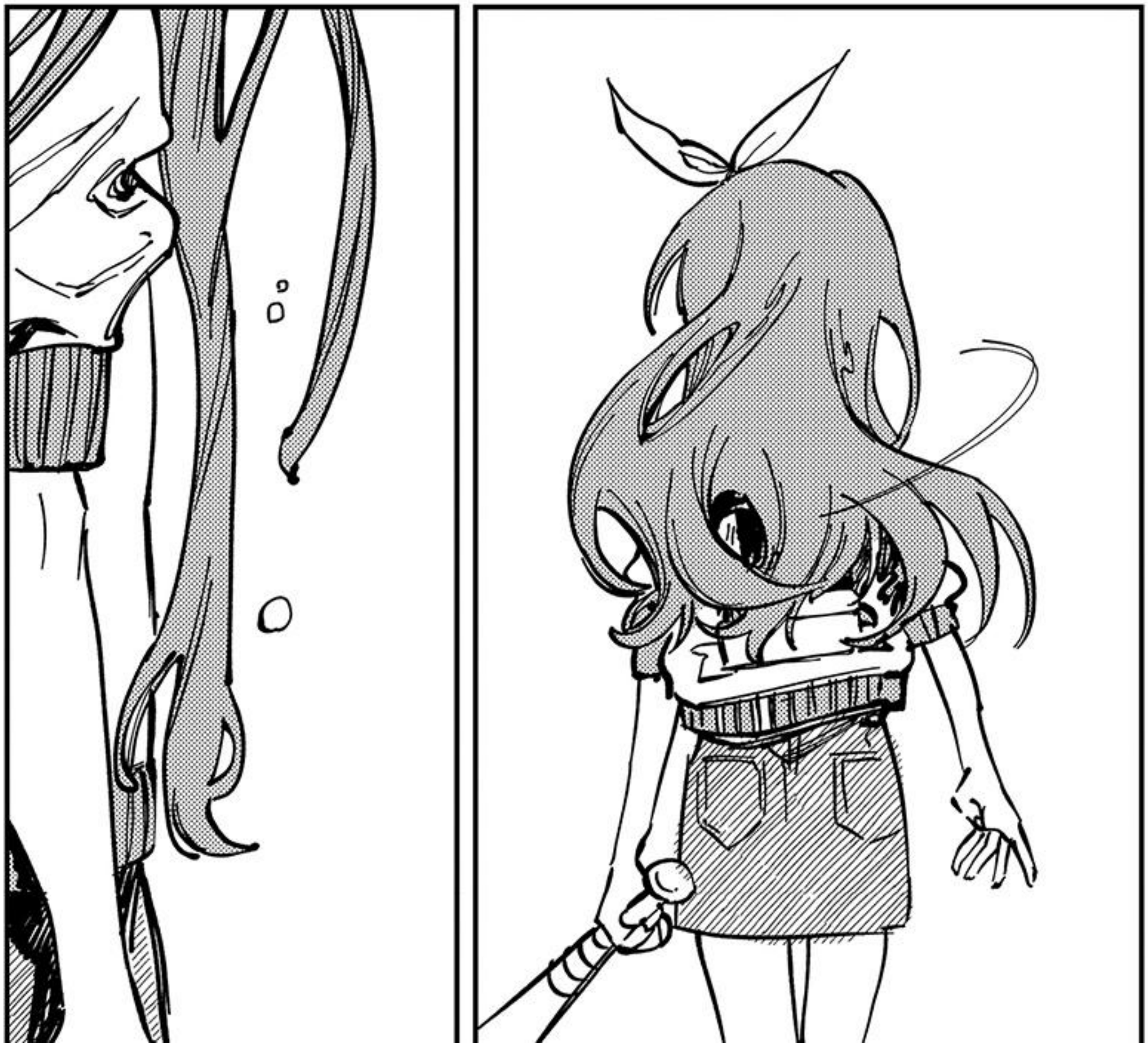
!

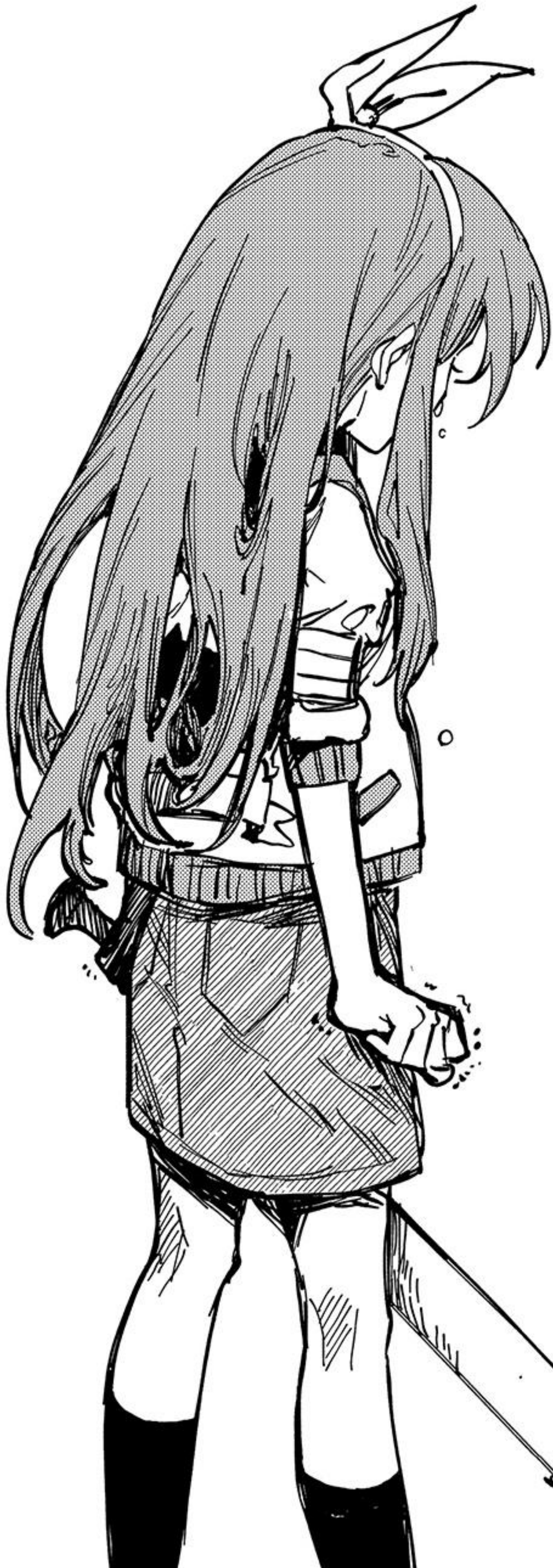
WAIT... I RECOG-NIZE THAT GIRL...

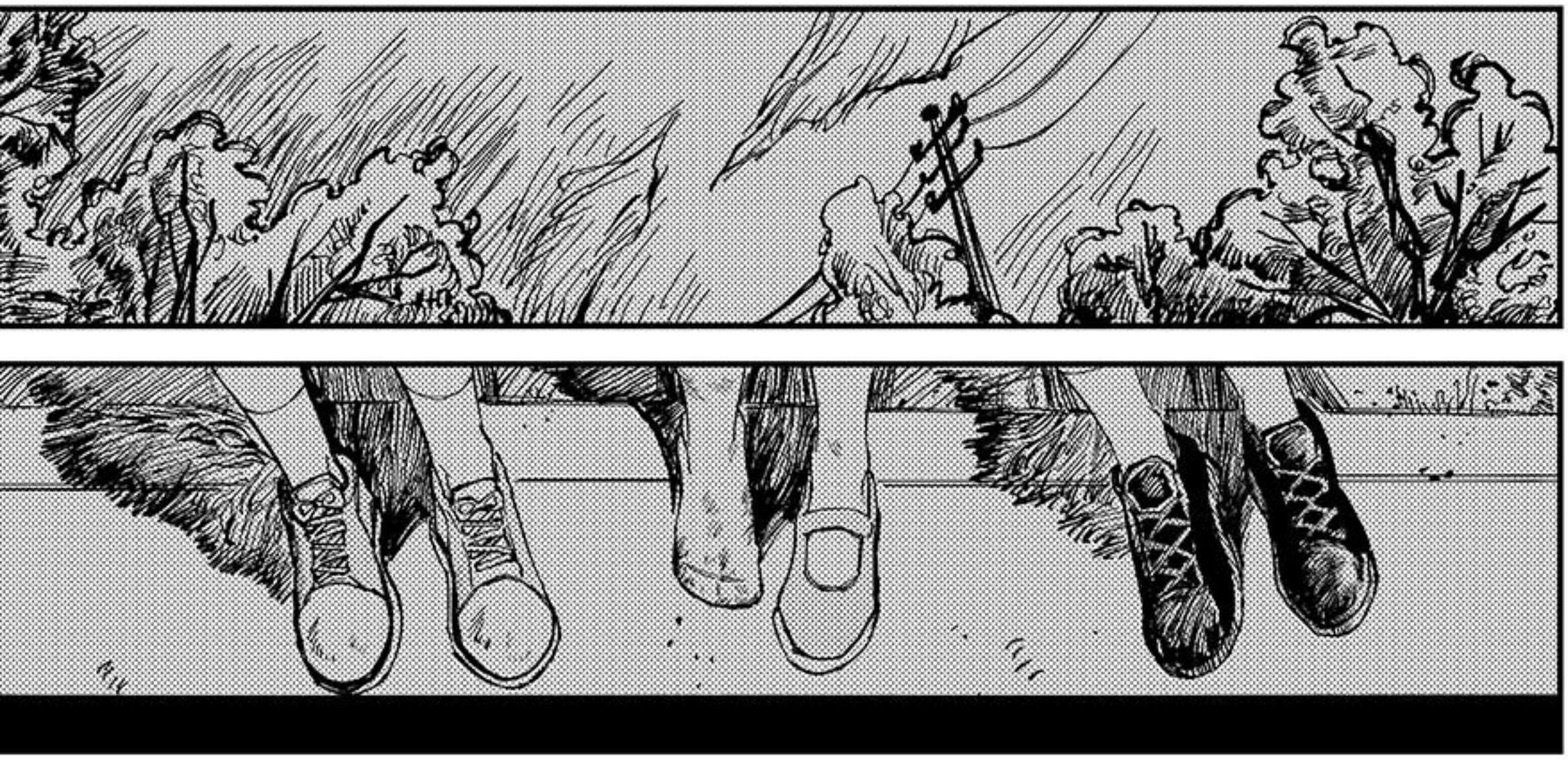
EVER SINCE HER FATHER LEFT... SHE'S BEEN UNCONTROLLA-BLE... SO DIS-RESPECTFUL...

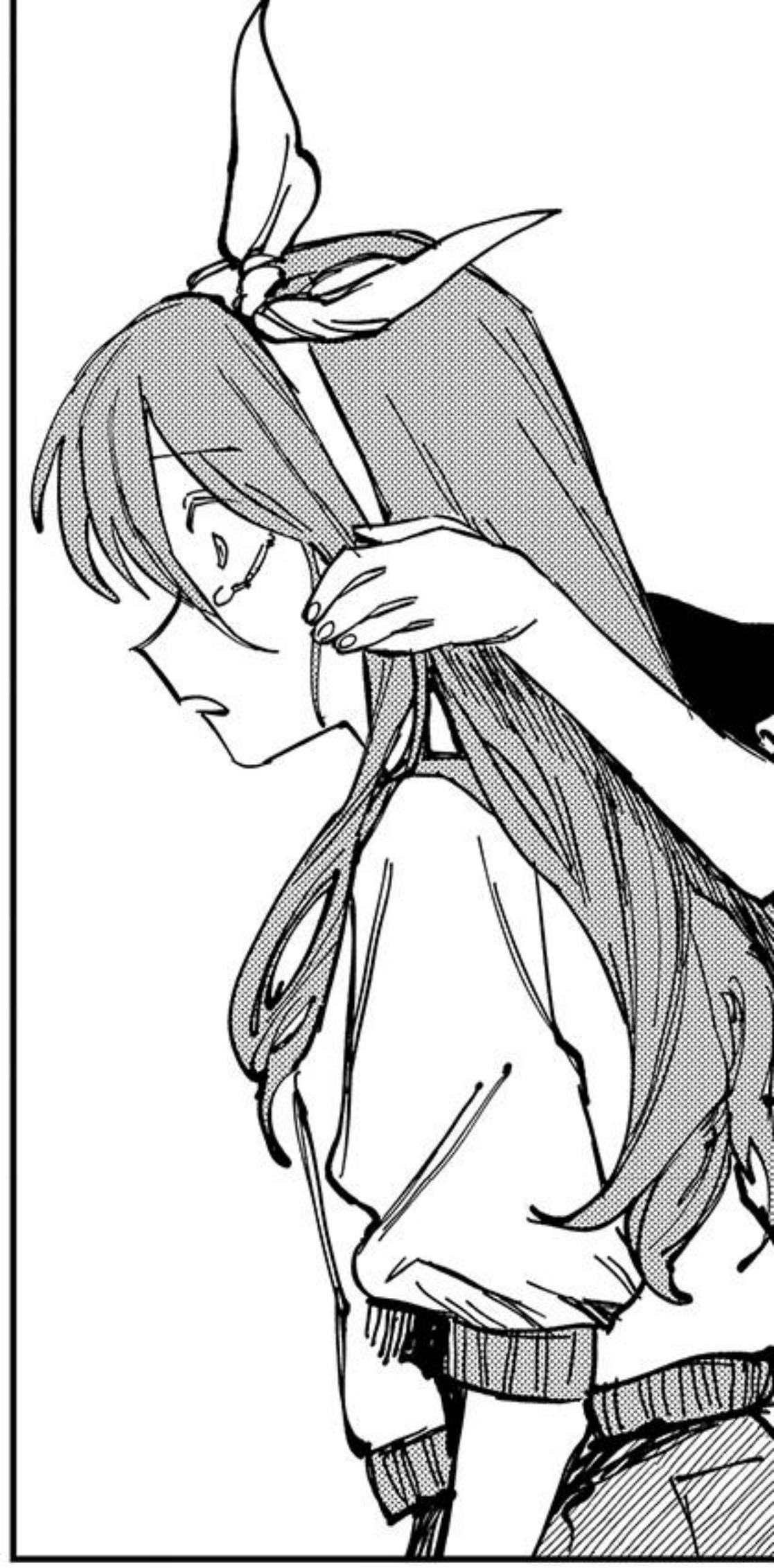
WITH A DAUGHTER LIKE THAT... I FEEL BAD FOR HER MOTHER...

LET GO









HEY!!!!!

STOP TALKING LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING!!! WE CAN HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW?!

!

WHISPER

WHISPER

SHOVE

I'M SORRY.

SUNNY!!

I THREW IT AWAY.

ABOUT THE ALBUM...

CREAK

SLAM SHUT

IT SUCKS THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS, HUH SUNNY?

THAT DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED AT ALL...

MAN...

AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET THE PHOTO ALBUM BACK FROM AUBREY...

WE GOT CHASED OUT OF THE CHURCH...

BUT, YOU KNOW...

EVEN THOUGH AUBREY MIGHT LOOK AND ACT DIFFERENT, I GUESS SHE'S STILL THE SAME PERSON AFTER ALL.

SO AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE ARE STILL HER FRIENDS.

I'M SURE MARI WOULD APPRECIATE THAT TOO.

ぽんっ
PAT

LET'S GO DIG UP EVERY GARBAGE BIN IN TOWN!!

I'M SURE ONE OF 'EM WILL HAVE THE ALBUM IN IT!

ALRIGHT, SUNNY!

!

WE GOTTA HURRY! IF WE WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, THE ALBUM WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FOREVER!!

C'MON! PICK UP THE PACE, SUNNY!!

FOREST PLAYGROUND

YEAH... WE CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.

IT'S LIKE HE JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER THE FOREST FOR HIM TOO... BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM ANYWHERE.

OH, NO... BASIL'S DISAP-PEARED?

IT'S ALMOST AS IF... SOMETHING JUST TOOK HIM AWAY.

OH, BASIL... I HOPE HE'S OKAY...

PATTER

I'M SO WORRIED...

ACK... AUBREY...

WHAT IF HE'S ALL ALONE? ...OR SCARED? ...OR IN PAIN? WHAT DO WE DO? I FEEL SO HELPLESS...

KEL IS RIGHT.

SNIFFLE

SOB

I BET HE'S WAITING FOR US TO FIND HIM RIGHT NOW!

BASIL MIGHT BE A LITTLE ON THE SOFTER SIDE, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

WE'LL FIND HIM TOGETHER ...

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING.

HE MIGHT BE SOMEWHERE WE'VE NEVER EXPLORED BEFORE...

NO MATTER WHAT!

BUT NO MATTER HOW BIG THE WORLD IS, WE WON'T EVER GIVE UP LOOKING FOR HIM.

YEAH, DON'T FORGET!

OMORI AND I ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP TOO!

YEAH!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

O... OKAY!

I WON'T LOSE HOPE!

THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS A WORLD MAP!

OH? WHAT'S THAT?

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED, MARI! I HAVE JUST THE THING!

BUT WHERE SHOULD WE START LOOKING?

?

OPEN

WOW... WE TRULY LIVE IN A VAST FOREST...

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS VAST...

AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE OUR WAY THROUGH EACH AREA ONE-BY-ONE...

THEN I SAY WE SHOULD START BY GOING UP THAT ONE SUPER LONG LADDER IN THE FOREST.

THE ONE THAT GOES ALL THE WAY INTO SPACE!!

THE LADDER ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE FOREST, HUH...

W-WAIT! LADDER?! NO, WE CAN'T!

HUH, WHY NOT?

BASIL IS SOMEWHERE ON THIS MAP... I'M SURE OF IT!

I STUDIED IT EARLIER, AND IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ACTUALLY

A LOT OF PLACES IN THIS WORLD THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN TO YET.

BECAUSE...

OMORI IS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS!

GULP

HOOSH